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Identical letters dated 10 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following:

The illegitimate international coalition led by the United States of America has committed another heinous crime against dozens of Syrian civilians. On the evening of 9 November 2018, coalition aircraft deliberately targeted residential neighbourhoods in the town of Hajin, which lies some 110 km east of Dayr al-Zawr city, killing 26 civilians, mostly women and children, in their homes near the town's Khalid Bin al-Walid mosque and wounding dozens of other innocent civilians. Sources have confirmed that the number of dead is expected to rise due to continuing raids and the difficulty of removing the wounded, some of whom are in critical condition, from the rubble. Several days earlier, forces of the so-called coalition had committed other crimes in that same region, resulting in six innocent civilian casualties. While the United States killing machine and its allies repeatedly commit these cold-blooded crimes, the Security Council remains frighteningly silent regarding such massacres and has done nothing to put an end to them.

In previous letters, the most recent of which is the identical letters dated 30 October 2018 (S/2018/972), the Syrian Arab Republic noted that the criminal coalition's aggressions and barbaric attacks against innocent civilians have taken on a systematic, deliberate and sustained character, and that the coalition has used various types of internationally prohibited weapons that have indiscriminate effects or are capable of causing mass destruction, such as white phosphorus bombs. It has asked the Security Council to act immediately to halt those crimes and prevent their recurrence.

Yesterday's crime in Hajin and the massacres that preceded it once again show how little regard the States of the so-called coalition have for the lives of innocent civilians, international law and international humanitarian law. They expose the hypocrisy and dishonesty of these States when they talk about the need to uphold the Charter of the United Nations, human rights instruments and the peremptory norms of humanitarian law when conducting military operations, which the United States claims are directed against terrorists but whose victims, as conclusive evidence has shown every time, are Syrian civilians. Meanwhile, in broad daylight, fully armed terrorist groups deploy mere kilometres away from the positions held by American occupation forces and their proxies east of the Euphrates River and in the Tanf area, where, according to several reliable international sources, the American army is

providing every type of support and assistance to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant terrorist organization.

This heinous crime once again gives the lie to the spurious claims of the United States that it is countering terrorism and demonstrates that its goal is to kill the greatest possible number of Syrians and cause more damage to infrastructure that was built at great cost by the Syrian State over the past years. This has all taken place as the illegal and immoral coalition continues to target innocent civilians and commit war crimes and crimes against humanity in pursuit of an agenda that, as the Syrian people clearly understand, is aimed at undermining the future and sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic and its territorial unity and integrity, and obstructing any future solution to the crisis, in blatant violation of all Security Council resolutions on the matter.

The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls upon the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility by taking earnest and immediate action to prevent such attacks and massacres. The Council must take the necessary steps to create an independent and impartial international mechanism to investigate and condemn those crimes and punish the perpetrators. It must ensure that the States of the so-called coalition comply with the Charter of the United Nations, in which crimes of aggression, interference in the internal affairs of States and undermining the territorial integrity of Member States are rejected.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative